

Application No. 10/787,176
Amendment dated July 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 25, 2006

Docket No.: 3624-0157P

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 7 and 8. In particular, the distance "d" is now indicated in these drawings.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement sheet

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REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 21-22 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1 and 6-9 have been amended, claims 11-20 remain canceled and claims 21 and 22 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Igarashi, US Patent 4,252,262 in view of Matsumoto et al, Japanese document 2002224858 and Chang, US Publication 2002/0187851. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Igarashi in view of Matsumoto et al and Chang and further in view of Chen, US Patent 5,971,408. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-4 stand under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Aizawa, US Patent 5,697,855 in view of Matsumoto et al, Japanese document 2002224858 and Chang, US Publication 2002/0187851. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for manufacturing a golf club head comprising the steps of providing an assemble tolerance between the first inclined surface of the body and the second inclined surface of the striking plate due to the fact that a second minimum distance across the striking plate is greater than a first minimum distance across the opening of the body.

In contrast the Igarashi and Aizawa patents disclose the steps of providing an assemble tolerance between the first inclined surface of the body and the second inclined surface of the striking plate due to the fact that a second minimum distance across the striking plate is greater than a first minimum distance across the opening of the body, as is recited in the present claims. It is important to note that no inclined surface is formed on one of an outer periphery of the face plate 12 and an inner periphery of the cavity of the body 11.

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In fact, Figure 6 of the Aizawa patent discloses a minimum distance across the face plate 55 being identical with a minimum distance across the recess (i.e. opening) 57 of the head body.

Also, the Japanese document to Matsumoto et al, the US Publication to Chang and the US Patent to Chen all fail to disclose or suggest the step of providing an assemble tolerance between the first inclined surface of the body and the second inclined surface of the striking plate due to the fact that a second minimum distance across the striking plate is greater than a first minimum distance across the opening of the body as is claimed in the present application.

In consideration of this lack of teaching in the utilized prior art, there is no reasonable expectation of success for modification of either the Igarashi or Aizawa patents to obtain the claimed method. One of ordinary skill in the art could not conceive of the present invention from these references without the use of hindsight. It is therefore respectfully requested that all 35USC 103 rejections now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Because the two additional US patents have been cited by the Examiner to show the state of the prior art, but have not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents should be necessary at this time.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned (703) 205-8000, in Washington, D.C. area.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Attachments